

Message Text

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ACTION OES-07

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 11541

DEPT PASS RICHARD BARNES, NASA

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: BEXP, ETEL, TSPA, IN
SUBJECT: APPLE: INDIAN EXPERIMENTAL COMMUNICATIONS SATELLITE

REF: NEW DELHI A-58 DTD 4/7/77

1. ON THE THIRD LAUNCH OF THE FRENCH ROCKET, ARRIANE, THE DUAL PAYLOAD WILL INCLUDE AN INDIAN BUILT COMMUNICATIONS SATELLITE, APPLE. THE SATELLITE AS DESCRIBED IN REF WILL BE THREE AXIS BODY STABILIZED UNIT USING MOMENTUM WHEELS FOR CONTROLLING THE SPACE-CRAFT ORIENTATION.

2. SCICONS IN CONVERSATIONS WITH HUGHES AIRCRAFT REPRESENTATIVES IN THE U.S. LEARNED THAT INDIAN SPACE RESEARCH ORGANIZATION (ISRO) LIASON REPRESENTATIVE, SHENOY, STATIONED AT THE INDIAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON, D.C.; HAD CONTACTED HUGHES. THE HUGHES REP SAID THAT THE INDIANS WERE GOING TO BUILD FOUR APPLE VEHICLES, WHICH WOULD INCLUDE ONE ENGINEERING MODEL, ONE PROTOTYPE AND TWO FLIGHT VEHICLES. ISRO, ACCORDING TO SHENOY, WANTS TO PROCURE SOME COMPONENTS FOR THE SATELLITE. THESE WOULD INCLUDE PROPULSION COMPONENTS LIKE TANKS AND THRUSTERS, TRAVELLING WAVE TUBES (TWT) FOR THE TRANSMITTERS, SOLAR CELLS, AND ATTITUDE SENSORS.

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3. ACCORDING TO THE HUGHES REP ISRO MIGHT PROCURE THE PRIME FLIGHT EQUIPMENT SUCH AS THE TWT POWER SUPPLY AND BUILD THE BACKUP SYSTEM, WHICH IS REQUIRED FOR REDUNDANCY ON THE SPACECRAFT, THEMSELVES. ISRO WOULD PREFER TO BUY COMPONENTS AND MODULES AND DO ASSEMBLY AND INTEGRATION THEMSELVES.

4. RECENTLY THE HUGHES REP IN NEW DEHI AFTER A VISIT TO ISRO HQ

IN BANGALORE TOLD SCICOUNS THAT ISRO WAS HAVING PROBLEMS WITH THE DOLS 15 MILLION APPLE PROGRAM. THE DESIGNS SHOW THE SPACE-CRAFT TO BE OVERWEIGHT. ISRO PERSONNEL TOLD THEM THAT CNES, THE FRENCH CIVIL SPACE ORGANIZATION, HAS NOT BEEN OF MUCH TECHNICAL HELP TO THIS ISRO PROGRAM. THE ISRO CENTER FOR BUILDING THE SPACECRAFT SEEMS TO BE OVERLOADED WITH WORK AND PLANS TO LET CONTRACTS FOR BUILDING SOME SUB-SYSTEMS AND PROCURE MOST MAJOR SUB-SYSTEMS. THE REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP) FOR SOME SUB-SYSTEM PROCUREMENTS IS TWO WEEKS LATE IN BEING SENT OUT TO POTENTIAL BIDDERS.

5. THE HUGHES REP IN DELHI SAID THAT DHAWAN HAS TAKEN A PERSONAL INTEREST IN THIS AMBITIOUS PROGRAM, APPLE, TO HELP RESOLVE THE PROBLEMS AND REMOVE BOTTLENECKS. THE HUGHES REP FELT THAT ISRO MIGHT EVEN DROP THIS PROGRAM
GOHEEN

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Message Attributes

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Concepts: COMMUNICATION SATELLITES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 16-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
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